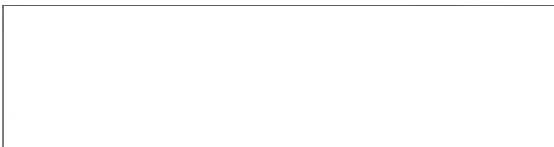


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



25 JAN. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Thais begin to show
some give on Laos

Sarit's last word, during another conference with Ambassador Young yesterday, is that his government will go along in principle with the US position on Laos, a shift which Young attributes to the effect of the President's letter. During the session, Sarit dictated a message to Phoumi, telling him: "I am sympathetic with you because I know this may mean death for you, but it looks like you will have to give in and hope for the best in the future." Young's wary conclusion: "I will uncross my fingers slightly for the time being."

2. Algeria

a. Although the 75-minute general strike called by the OAS in Algiers yesterday got a good response, fatalities in the city were the lowest for any day this year. Another OAS-inspired strike is now under way in Oran.

b. Both French and Algerian rebel leaders are saying that they are in agreement on nearly all of the major negotiating issues. The question of the degree of French authority during the transition from cease-fire to independence is the chief remaining obstacle. Signs that the pivotal juncture is approaching came in announcements that the Provisional Algerian government has scheduled a meeting for the first of next month in Tunis and that De Gaulle will make a radio-TV address to the French on the 5th.

3. Iran

a. The Shah is, for the moment, standing by Prime Minister Amini against attempts by left-and right-wing opponents to bring him down. At Amini's prompting, the Shah has asked General Bakhtiar,

[REDACTED]

50X1

[REDACTED] to go into exile.

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b. The turmoil in Tehran seems to have subsided.

c. Meanwhile, Soviet-Iranian talks on improved relations have apparently bogged down completely.

4. Congo

a. Adoula, his back obviously way up, has replied to Nkrumah's suggestion that he take it easy on Gizenga by telling the Ghanaian, in so many words, to mind his own business. [REDACTED] Adoula still sees the Gizenga problem as a touchy one, and is delaying his US visit until he has a better grip on it.

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b. In Stanleyville, General Lundula has announced that Colonel Pakassa, commander of the troops which have been marauding through northern Katanga and Kivu provinces, has escaped.

c. [REDACTED] the key leader of the Katanga mercenaries, a Frenchman, is getting ready to leave for greener pastures (Algeria), with Tshombé apparently making no effort to deter him.

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50X1

5. Dominican Communists
beginning to make
their play

The new government, feeling its way cautiously, is not hindering the return from exile of numbers of party members and sympathizers, who are already trying to move onto the political scene. Working through the Dominican Popular Movement, with some help from the leftist-led 14 of June party, they are setting up a program which includes gaining control of the labor movement and agitation for agrarian reform along Cuban lines.

NOTES

A. There were remnants of violence in Venezuela yesterday, but the situation in the streets seems to have taken a distinct turn for the better.

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B.

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D. Cambodia's reaction to the strafing of one of its border villages by South Vietnamese aircraft on Sunday has so far been quite mild. There seems to be a fairly good chance that an apology and an offer of compensation by Saigon--which are likely--will keep South Vietnamese-Cambodian relations from going into another tailspin.

E. Prospects for any constructive outcome from the Lagos conference are sinking rapidly. With the radical African states boycotting the meeting completely, schisms are beginning to open among the others over such things as the Algerian issue.

F. The Italians are continuing their efforts to develop evidence that the Bulgarian MIG pilot was on an espionage mission

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G. The East Germans passed their conscription law yesterday. Then they moved into discussion of a new customs bill; judging from what has been said so far, the bill will steer clear of restrictions on West German goods and the disruption of interzonal trade.

LATE NOTE

The Soviets successfully launched an ICBM from Tyura Tam this morning. It was probably the second-generation missile.

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--24 JANUARY 1962

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

BERLIN: Communist military activity and recent Soviet actions in the immediate Berlin area do not suggest that the Communists expect to risk military confrontation over Berlin in the immediate future.

LAOS: Prospects for an early political solution remain dim although efforts at negotiation continue. In south-central Laos, the Communist forces have been strengthened, and there is an indication that they are preparing for a possible offensive toward Thakhek. 50X1

SOUTH VIETNAM: Although counteractions by government forces have recently shown some success, the Viet Cong continues its high rate of subversive and small-scale military activity and retains its capability to conduct large-scale attacks on pre-selected targets in some areas of the country at any time.

INDONESIA: Indonesia will continue military preparations to attack West New Guinea while concurrently hoping for negotiations on favorable terms with the Dutch. Intensified Indonesian and Dutch patrolling activities in areas adjacent to West New Guinea will increase the likelihood of air or naval incidents.

DOCUMENTS ON INTEREST

- I. [REDACTED] 50X1
- II. [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] 50X1
- III. [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] 50X1

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE